

BURNED TO THE WATER'S EDGE

Total Destruction of a Large Mississippi River Steamer.

NEARLY FIFTY PEOPLE PERISH.

The Officers of the Steamer Wornly Praised by the Surviving Passengers for Their Bravery and Heroism.

The "Kate Adams" Burned.

MEMPHIS, Dec. 23.—The passenger steamer Kate Adams burned this morning near Commerce, Miss., forty miles south of this city. She was en route to Memphis and had about two hundred passengers aboard. The fire, which caught in some cotton near the forward end of the boiler, was discovered about 8 o'clock. The passengers were at breakfast and when the alarm was given, they all made a rush for the forward deck. At the time the steamer was about two hundred yards from the Mississippi side of the river, and for low water, the boat was in the middle of the river. The fire was on watch, and he remained heroically at his post until he was safely landed. Harry Best, second clerk, who was seated at the table when the alarm was given, had brought all the ladies and children forward and assisted them ashore. Captain Mark E. Choate, who was on the hurricane deck, remained there giving his commands until the stage plank was safely lowered. The fire by this time had spread all through the cabin, and he was compelled to retreat to the rear, and climbed over the rails and descended to the cabin. Here he found Chief Clerk Gunkler, who had made an effort to save the money and papers of the steamer, which were in the safe. He managed to grab the money and had a narrow escape from death in the burning cabin. Captain Choate assisted several passengers in securing life preservers, and when it was no longer possible for him to remain without being burned, he jumped into the river and swam ashore.

There were about twenty-five cabin passengers who were saved, along with the white passengers. On the lower deck, however, a fearful panic seized the crew and black passengers, who were crowded out of escape from the bow were compelled to jump overboard to save their lives. The steam of the burning steamer, which was blown into the river, and an effort was made to launch the life, it was captured by the crowd which filled it, and many of its occupants were drowned. There were three or four women in the crowd.

The last, so far as can be learned, are as follows: GEORGE COLEBURN, third clerk, aged twenty-nine years, who had launched the yawl, and was trying to save the colored women on the lower deck;

JOHN PORTER, first clerk, who was on the lower deck;

MONROE JACKSON, second clerk, who was on the lower deck;

WILLIAM HARRIS, second clerk, who was on the lower deck;

LEE FINLEY, first clerk, who was on the lower deck;

FRANK WELLS, first clerk, who was on the lower deck;

JOHN WOODS, first clerk, who was on the lower deck;

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BLOODY GROUND.

Several More Lives Sacrificed in the French-Eversole Feud.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 22.—(Special Telegram to The Bee.)—A terrible affray between the French and Eversole factions occurred a week ago yesterday at Hindman, the seat of Knox county. Hindman is 100 miles away from any railroad, and news of the affray reached here to-day. On a chance of venue the case against Ben Franklin French, Bob Trotter, Anderson Collier and Tom Smith, alias "Red Mule," indicted by the Perry county grand jury for the instigation of Joe Eversole, leader of the Eversole faction, and his friend, Martin Combs, had been taken from Perry county to Hindman. French and all his friends were released on bond at Hindman. The French party gathered there heavily armed. Many of the Eversole faction were also present, including John and Andrew Sloan, brothers and lifelong friends of the Eversole party. Lewis Hays, Sid Hays and Andrew Hays, three brothers, and "Red Mule" Smith, members of the French party, were together. They met the Sloan brothers, and at once picked a quarrel, which was soon joined by the Sloan brothers and drove the Sloan party to the street at the muzzle of their weapons. Smith and the Hayses followed the Sloans until they reached a point where they had every advantage. Sloan had the charge of the party, and he opened fire upon the retreating Sloans. They took deadly aim and their bullets, which were fired with great accuracy, fell, mortally wounded. Andy was also hit several times, but he managed to keep his feet, although he was so weakened that he was barely able to march. The Sloan brothers could soon overtake Andy, the members of the French party advanced to where John Sloan was lying, and his brother received the same treatment, both men dying within a few minutes.

As soon as this crime was done, all four of the murderers slowly withdrew from Hindman. The slightest attempt was made to follow them, and they were instantly killed. A week preceding this two other witnesses against French and his companions were shot dead. The new witnesses' deaths were not received until to-day. The two other victims were Richard Vance and a man whose name has not been learned. They were shot together in the edge of Perry county, they were shot from ambush and instantly killed.

On the day following the murder of the Sloan boys, "Shooting Ike" Combs, French's first lieutenant, went to the home of John Hays, in the edge of Breathitt county. Combs picked a quarrel and was instantly killed. As Davis killed him with buckshot. This was the last of the French party's feud. Both factions are up in arms, and the judge has refused to attempt to try the case unless he is protected by militia.

ARTEMUS WARD'S WILL.

It is Declared Valid by a New York Court.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Charles F. Browne (Artemus Ward), having left property in this country, and also legacies here, Judge Barrett, of the supreme court, has just signed a decree establishing the validity of the will, in which the bequests might be made. The will was executed on February 20, 1867, at Southampton, England, where the humorist died. After making a few minor bequests, he left the bulk of his property to the testator's mother. After her death the greater portion of the principal was divided among his children. The will was signed by the testator, and the signature was witnessed by two men, one of whom was a printer in the United States. At the death of his mother the testator directed that the children should receive the bulk of the property. The will was signed by the testator, and the signature was witnessed by two men, one of whom was a printer in the United States. At the death of his mother the testator directed that the children should receive the bulk of the property. The will was signed by the testator, and the signature was witnessed by two men, one of whom was a printer in the United States. At the death of his mother the testator directed that the children should receive the bulk of the property.

The Anarchists Did Not Meet.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The reported anarchist meeting, which did not take place, was held in the hall which was to be used by the Plasterers' union, and the renting of it to the Arbeiter Bund was done without their knowledge by the janitor. The union this morning sent a committee to Chief of Police Hubbard to arrange a course of action, asking him to return to the hall and inform the anarchist. Mr. Kraft, attorney for the band, was present, and to him Chief Hubbard reiterated his determination that the meeting must not be held. The plasterers' committee then returned to the hall and notified the janitor not to open it. About 2 o'clock forty-five members of the Arbeiter Bund, under the leadership of John J. Smith, a well-known anarchist, entered the hall and demanded to know why the hall was not opened. Their curiosity was gratified by a lieutenant of police, who was present, and they then proceeded to make no further attempt to hold the meeting, saying the action of the police was just what they wanted. They then dispersed.

Three of the colored cabin crew who were rescued from the water died afterward. Their names appear in the list already given. The water being so low, the bodies of the three who jumped overboard, and to this is attributed the great loss of life. All speak in the highest terms of the coolness and bravery displayed by the crew, who did not have funds. The passengers and crew lost all their clothing and effects, and some made their escape by jumping overboard. The burning steamer drifted away, and floated down the river, her hull sinking at the head of Lake Michigan, four miles below Commerce.

The "Kate Adams" was owned by the Memphis & Victoria Navigation Company. She was the finest and fastest steamer of her type on the river, and her owners had spent \$200,000 in repairing her. Her cargo consisted of 1,101 bales of cotton, 1,000 sacks of cotton seed, 87 bags of seed and a good lot of sundries. The cotton was consigned to Memphis merchants and was fully insured.

All the passengers and crew arrived at Memphis this afternoon at 6 o'clock, having taken the Louisville, New Orleans and Chicago railroad train at Robinsonville, which station is eight miles distant in the interior from where the disaster occurred.

Citizens of Commerce rendered the passengers and crew every assistance in reaching Robinsonville, conveying them to their homes, and every contrivance which could be secured. There were 167 from the ill-fated steamer that came to Memphis, Captain Choate and his crew, and the crew of the burning steamer, and were provided with clothes by the kind citizens of Commerce.

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IS THERE ANYTHING IN IT?

Rumor That Harrison Will Call Sherman to the Cabinet.

A VERY COMPLICATED AFFAIR.

An Army Officer's Betsitting Sin—Curious Flight of Two Wisconsin Members—Election—River and Harbor Bill.

WASHINGTON HERALD THE OMAHA BEA, 1313 FOURTEENTH STREET.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 23.—

A gentleman, who ought to know, if any body does, and whose name would give this story credence anywhere, assured me this afternoon that he had positive knowledge that General Harrison had decided to appoint Senator Sherman secretary of state.

He did not give me the source of his information, but I could easily see that it was not a rumor, and that there would be no other cabinet officer taken from the senate.

A letter under the name of Senator Quay, which was telegraphed to the eastern papers from Paris, last night, is a cheap fake, and the senator declines to take any notice of it, not even to give it a contradiction.

There is a curious state of things at the arsenal near this city. Captain John F. Mount, of the Third artillery, has been in the habit of drinking too much liquor, and Colonel Gibson, commanding that regiment, threatened, not long ago, to have him hauled up before court-martial and court-martialed.

Captain Mount promised reformation, as he had repeatedly done before, and as a guarantee of good faith wrote out his resignation, which he authorized Colonel Gibson to hand to the secretary of war in case he should ever be found intoxicated again. According to the agreement, Colonel Gibson was to resign to the secretary of war on the day after Thanksgiving. It was forwarded through the regular channels and was accepted by the president. The first Captain Mount knew of Colonel Gibson's action was when he was relieved from duty. He then called on the secretary and told him the story, claiming that he had not been intoxicated, and that Colonel Gibson had had him hauled up before court-martial and court-martialed.

Somehow the democratic officials of the house are not half so emphatic in claiming a democratic majority in the next house as they were before. The republican claim is that the four districts in West Virginia seem to have been stolen by them. The success of the republican cause in West Virginia, which seemed to have been defeated at one time, and the assurance that the delegation from that state will contain five republicans, has been a great source of satisfaction to the republican party.

The point raised by the Milwaukee Herald, that these two democrats, Arthur and Becker, are not naturalized citizens, because they are neither native, naturalized, nor the sons of naturalized citizens, is said to be well taken, and republicans are now endeavoring to get them to swear until they have produced satisfactory proof that they are citizens of the United States. The democratic party is now in a serious predicament, as the seating of the only two democrats in the house would be a great source of satisfaction to the republican party.

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